

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated October 7, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 but allowed claims 11-20. As of the Advisory Action of March 14, 2006, only claims 11-20 remain allowed. In order to bring the application as a whole in condition for allowance, applicant has amended the claims to cancel claims 1-10. By virtue of this amendment, the only allowed claims remain.

The Examiner had objected to claim 19 based on an informality. Claim 19 has been amended to add a period at the end of the claim. With this amendment, it is believed that amended claim 19 is no longer objectionable. A marked up version of the claims are attached. Applicant has cancelled all claims referring to circuit means and it is therefore believed that circuit means need not be shown or described. Applicant has amended the specification to specify that the light means is a light panel of generally the same shape as the partially transparent piece. This amendment is supported by the originally filed specification, specifically claim 16, original Figure 2 showing the light panel 18 generally shaped the same as the partial transparent piece 20, the paragraph ending on page 2 and beginning on page 3, and the second paragraph on page 5. No new matter has been entered by virtue of these amendments.

Applicant has not amended the drawings to show securing means as claimed in claim 11. The Examiner has previously rejected a drawing showing securing means of claims and adhesive as new matter that was not supported by the initial application. The Examiner has also determined that removing this element from the claims would be an impermissibly broadening of the claims after a final office action. Instead of entering new matter to show securing means applicant instead respectfully asserts that securing

means to secure a display frame backing to a display frame is commonly known in the art and commonly known to the general public outside of the art. One need only look at any commercial photo frame to see and understand securing means such as clamps or adhesive. Applicant further notes that showing of adhesive as securing means would be difficult as adhesive is generally not seen and if of such minimal dimensions as to make illustration extremely difficult to impossible. The specification has been amended to reflect this common knowledge.

Applicant acknowledges the continued allowance of claims 11-20. The Applicant believes that because the only remaining claims in the application are allowed claims and the amended specification adequately describes these allowed claims, the application as a whole is now in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number No. 50-3021 belonging to Brown Winick Law Firm.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 7, 2005, please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Amended) A combination display frame for mounting at least two pieces of art comprising:

- (a) a matte;
- (b) backing means;
- (c) an outer periphery;
- (d) said at least two pieces of art comprising at least partially transparent piece and at least one generally opaque piece;
- (e) a first opening in said matte corresponding to the shape of said at least partially transparent piece and a second opening in said matte corresponding to the shape of said at least one generally opaque piece.

- (f) a third opening in said backing means corresponding to the shape of and aligned with said second first opening in said matte;
- (g) means for securing said backing means, said at least one at least partially transparent piece, said at least one generally opaque piece, and said matte in stationary relationship with one another; and
- (h) light means for providing back lighting for said at least one at least partially transparent piece positioned in said third opening behind said at least one at least partially transparent piece.

12. (Previously Amended) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein said light means is positioned within said third opening and behind said at least one at least partially transparent piece.

13. (Original) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 12, wherein said light means is secured in position with a removable access panel equipped with latching means.

14. (Previously Amended) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein said means for securing said backing means, said at least one at least partially transparent piece, said at least one generally opaque piece, and said matte comprise an adhesive material and a plurality of clamping devices positioned generally adjacent to said outside periphery.

15. (Original) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least partially transparent piece is a photographic negative and said at least one generally opaque piece is a print of said photographic negative.

16. (Previously Amended) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 13,

wherein said light means comprises a light panel of generally same shape as said at least one at least partially transparent piece.

17. (Original) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein said at least one generally opaque piece is three-dimensional in nature.

18. (Original) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 11 further comprising two short frame elements and two long frame elements adjacent to said outer periphery and a transparent cover placed between said matte and said two short and said two long frame elements to provide protection for said at least partially transparent piece and said at least one generally opaque piece.

19. (Currently Amended) A combination display frame for mounting at least two pieces of art comprising:

- (a) a matte, backing means, an outer periphery, a semi-transparent art piece, a generally opaque art piece, and light means to provide back lighting for said semi-transparent art piece;
- (b) said matte comprising a first opening of generally same shape and size of said at least one at least partially transparent art piece and a second opening of generally same shape and size of said at least one generally opaque art piece;
- (c) said backing means comprising a third opening of generally same shape and size of said at least one at least partially transparent piece;
- (d) said light means comprising a light panel of generally same shape and size of said third opening;
- (e) means for securing in position relative to each other said matte, said at

least one at least partially transparent piece, said at least one generally opaque art piece, and said backing means and comprising a plurality of mechanical clamps; and

- (f) an access panel aligned within said third opening in said backing means with a latching handle wherein said light panel is placed in said opening and said access panel then removably secures said light panel.

20. (Previously Amended) A combination display frame as claimed in claim 19, wherein said at least one at least partially transparent piece is a painting on glass and said at least one generally opaque art piece is three-dimensional and said at least two pieces of art further comprise a print and each of said pieces of art is aesthetically related to the others.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of October 7, 2005, please amend the paragraph 1 on page 4 as follows:

The present invention shown in Figs. 1 and 2 is a combination display frame shown generally at 10 comprising an outer periphery 12, a matte 14, backing means 16, light means shown as a light panel 18, and at least two pieces of art 19. In the preferred embodiment, said at least two pieces of art 19 comprise at least partially transparent piece of art 20, and a generally opaque piece of art 22 with an outer perimeter 23. Said matte 14 and said backing 16 are of the same general shape as said periphery 12 but of slightly smaller dimension. As shown in figure 2, the light panel 18 is of generally the same shape as the partially transparent piece 20.

Sir:

Please amend the second paragraph on page 5 of the application as follows:

In the preferred embodiment, said light ~~[[means]]~~ panel 18 is a slim light panel and fits directly into said third opening 34 behind said at least partially transparent piece of art 20. A removable access panel 40 (shown in Fig. 4) is provided which detachably secures said light means 18 in place. Said removable access panel 40 may include latching means 41. Also in the preferred embodiment, means for alternatively actuating said light means ~~[[]]~~ 42 is a switch that is preferably associated with said outer periphery 12 and connected to said light panel 18 by wire 44.

Sir:

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 5 of the application as follows:

As shown in Fig. 3, said at least partially transparent piece of art 20 is secured behind and within said first opening 30 in said matte 14; said generally opaque piece of art 22 is secured behind and within said second opening 32 in said matte 14. Referring back to Fig. 2, the backing means 16 is secured behind said generally opaque piece of art 22 and said at least partially transparent piece of art 20 and said third opening 34 is positioned behind said at least partially transparent piece of art 20 such that light may pass through said at least partially transparent piece of art 20. Said light means 18 is placed so that it directs light through said third opening 34, said at least partially transparent piece of art 20, and said first opening 30. Means for alternatively actuating said light means 42 to either one of an on-condition or an off-condition is provided. (See Fig. 4) Means for securing said matte 14, said backing 16, and said at least two pieces of art 19 are provided. Said means for securing may include mechanical clamps or an adhesive material or other mechanical or magnetic means, are also generally known in the art. Securing means are such that are well known in the art and outside of the art to the general public in common commercial display frames.

Applicant : Franklin B. Way
Appl. No. : 10/617,412
Filed : July 11, 2003
Title : Combination Display Frame
Grp./A.U. : 3611
Examiner : Green, Brian
Docket No. : 15176/0002 (formerly 996263-2)

Mail-Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Mail-Stop Amendment, Alexandria, Virginia, on **April 3, 2006**, with adequate postage affixed thereto.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Camille L. Urban".

Camille L. Urban, Reg. No. 46,948